



2026 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship Preliminary-Round Information and Bid Checklist

Selections

Selections for the 2026 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship will be announced at 9:00 p.m. Eastern time, Sunday, November 8 via ncaa.com.

Preliminary-Round Schedule

First Round: Wednesday, November 11 from 1-6 p.m.

Second Round: Saturday, November 14 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Third Round: Sunday, November 15 at 1 p.m.

The second and third round will be hosted at the same time.

The second round has two games on the same day

Please review the first round game start time parameters in the bid portal.

First round games are single games at 12 sites.

Bid Checklist

The following materials must be submitted by institutions that wish to be considered as hosts for preliminary-round competition. All materials are due by **5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, November 2.**

Each of the online forms listed below may be accessed and submitted through the championships bid portal at <https://championships.ncaa.org>. The application is now part of My Apps and new users need to go through their SSO administrator to have it added to their My Apps account.

To begin the process of submitting a bid, you will need to locate the specific divisional sport and round in the Championships Available for Bidding section and click on Start Bid.

- ☐ **Proposed Budget(s).** An online proposed budget must be completed for each round of competition you wish to host. For those institutions submitting bids for multiple rounds, a 'copy' function is available in the system and will allow you to copy the budget or bid for another round. The appropriate round and date of competition must be indicated on each budget. Please be sure to include projected ticket sales in the Receipts section.

Note: Due to budget system upgrades, budgets submitted before the 2023-24 academic year can no longer be copied. Any newly submitted budgets will again be available for copying for future years/additional rounds. Previous budgets may still be accessed via the Home tab.

Free-form fields in the budget templates have been eliminated. Bidders will have to make their selections from a predetermined menu of options for each category. To assist with determining the appropriate option, bidders can hover over each option for examples/details.

Please carefully review pages (page 19-20) of the [2026-27 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Prechampionship Manual](#) (*linked*), before submitting a proposed budget, and make note of the following for all preliminary-round competition:

- All lodging expenses for officials and site representatives (if needed) must be included in your budget. Officials' fees, per diem and travel expenses do not need to be included, nor do per diem and travel expenses for site representatives – the NCAA will pay those expenses directly.
 - Minimum ticket prices for adults should be \$15.00 per day.
 - A broadcast stipend will be provided for each game you host, after the championship, and there should be no broadcast expenses in the budget.
 - Institutions will not receive an honorarium for hosting non-predetermined competition. NCAA staff will override the honorarium listed upon the host's submission of the financial report.
- ☐ **Facility Profile.** An online facility profile must be completed and/or maintained as necessary by each institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition. Information regarding video board, LED board and/or ribbon boards should be entered via the “Boards/Control Room” tab of the applicable venue profile.

A facility profile can be maintained and updated on a regular basis. If a facility can host multiple sports, check the appropriate box(es) under the Sports tab of the facility profile to provide the information for that facility. Refer to page (page 19-20) of the prechampionship manual for facility requirements and site selection procedures. Facility information must be reviewed for completeness and accuracy once a year. Instructions on the process are included in the bid portal.

- ☐ **Key Contacts.** The key contacts for your institution should be entered and/or maintained as necessary within your profile. Please enter the information for the key personnel associated with running a championship at your site.

When starting a bid, you will be prompted to enter new key personnel or edit or confirm your existing key personnel. In addition, you will be asked to designate individuals who should receive the various host shipments (e.g., sport equipment, merchandise, awards, etc.). Please include the proper mailing address for overnight deliveries. P.O. box addresses will not be accepted.

Personnel who will administer the competition also will be listed and can be edited within the Profile section of the Championships Bid Portal. When entering individuals in this manner,

information must be entered on both the General tab and the Role/Titles by Sport or Facility tab.

- **Critical Incident Response Team Contact Information.** The system automatically will generate a critical incident response team contact information form based on data entered into the key contacts form and the new Emergency Numbers tab in the facility profile. Individual points of contact from each agency are preferred, followed by LOCAL emergency numbers. The use of 911 should be avoided. If applicable, site representative information will be added by the championship manager once a site has been selected for hosting.
- **Safety and Security Plan.** Based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and their own expertise and knowledge, the NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group to develop a compilation of *Best Practices* for NCAA Championships, which can be found [here](#). We urge each competition venue to take these *Best Practices* into account when developing its safety and security program.

As part of your bid, **please submit a safety and security plan** for your venue. Your safety and security plan documents should be uploaded in the document section of the facility profile, under the Safety and Security tab. Safety and security plans should, at a minimum, be replaced if they were established five years ago or before.

- **Alcoholic Beverages.**

For Division I and Division II. Beer, wine, spirits and other alcoholic beverages (e.g. hard seltzers) may be sold and dispensed at NCAA Division I, II and National Collegiate championship and ancillary events, provided that the host, venue, and/or concessionaire:

- Comply with, and certifies in writing the compliance with, the NCAA Championship and Ancillary Event Alcohol Sales Policy, as amended by the NCAA from time to time, which addresses such matters as:
 - Permissible types of alcoholic beverages;
 - Eligibility for the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages;
 - Indemnity, warranty, and insurance obligations; and
 - Verification.

Agree to (i) keep and maintain, or cause its designated vendor or concessionaire to keep and maintain, complete and accurate records of all (a) alcohol-related incidents (e.g., expulsions, arrests) and (b) sales transactions related to the sale of concessions at the NCAA Championship and related ancillary events, including gross revenue, cost of goods, allocable overhead, and applicable taxes; (ii) no later than sixty (60) days after the conclusion of the event, provide the NCAA with a report setting forth in reasonable detail such information, together with the corresponding dates of transaction, including (a) alcohol-related revenue generated on each day of the event, (b) the direct cost of selling alcohol at the event (including the cost of goods), and (c) the indirect cost of selling alcohol

at the event (including overhead and increased security needs at the event venue site); and (iii) permit the books, records, and accounts of host, venue, and vendor/concessionaire pertaining to the sale of concessions at the event to be inspected, audited, and copied by NCAA or its agents at any time during normal business hours upon giving reasonable notice to host, venue, and vendor/concessionaire.

- Agree to pay the NCAA an amount of twenty percent (20%) of the gross revenue generated from the sale of alcohol during the event (and any approved ancillary events), less the pro rata applicable sales tax and credit card fees (without deduction of any operating, costs of goods, indirect, or other expenses, such as overhead, marketing, fulfillment, general & administrative, interest, or other expenses), with such agreement to be reflected in a written agreement between the NCAA and the applicable parties (host, venue, and/or concessionaire) executed prior to, or simultaneously with, the NCAA's official selection of the host for the applicable championship.
- Following the championship conclusion, provide the NCAA with certain information regarding the concessions activity—including gross sales, direct costs, and applicable taxes—for food, non-alcoholic beverages, and alcoholic beverages sold during the event.
- Execute, as part of the bid submission, the applicable policy and agreement documents maintained in the NCAA Championships Bid Portal.

The NCAA shall determine in its sole discretion whether alcohol will be sold or distributed at the ancillary events.

The venue, LOC/host and/or caterer shall be responsible for any permits unless otherwise directed by the NCAA.

Promotional items (e.g., cups, shakers, flags, signs, etc.) with commercial slogans or identification or other unauthorized markings are not permitted inside the practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue(s), inside surrounding areas/facilities that are to be used, or outside on practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue property unless expressly approved in advance by the NCAA. Items such as newspapers, handbills, flyers, memorabilia, t-shirts, caps, etc. (except products sold or authorized by the NCAA or its vendors) may not be distributed on these premises. Demographic or other studies may not be conducted unless approved in advance by the NCAA.

An economic impact study can be executed at an NCAA championship to examine the effect of the championship(s) on the local economy. In some cases, the NCAA will conduct an onsite study and will provide the data to the host once the study is completed. In other cases, the NCAA will support the hosts' efforts to execute a study. This can be done using the hosts' own approach/tools or the NCAA's Economic Impact Study "In-a-Box" tool."

For Division III. Unless expressly permitted in writing by the NCAA (subject to the applicable NCAA legislative, policy changes, and/or championship hosting arrangements), no alcoholic

beverages or nonalcoholic beer may be sold or dispensed for consumption in the competition venue from the time the doors open until 90 minutes after the conclusion of the games and practices, nor shall any such beverages be brought to the competition venue during the championship (i.e., during the period from the time access is available to spectators until all patrons have left the competition venue or area used for competition) unless otherwise approved by the NCAA.

If permitted by private lease agreement, alcoholic beverages may be consumed inside the private suites, subject to the host's, venue's, and/or concessionaire's compliance with certain insurance and indemnification requirements imposed by the NCAA. However, alcoholic beverages may not be delivered to private viewing suites on the dates of NCAA practice or competition. Additionally, it is not permissible for alcoholic beverages to be distributed or consumed in the competition venue outside the private viewing suites unless otherwise approved by the NCAA.

- **Lodging.** The host institution/agency shall negotiate a courtesy hold for the participating institutions/student-athlete(s). The selected hotel properties shall be priced at a fair and reasonable market room rate, while remaining sensitive to daily divisional per diem allowances. The selection of a competition site may be dependent on availability and quality of rooms for participating institutions/student-athletes. A [letter of intent template](#) is provided by the NCAA for the host to use to confirm the hold with the hotel(s).

All prospective hosts for nonpredetermined sites will be required to identify the hotel properties they secured for the event via the Hotels tab, along with an upload of signed hotel agreement(s)/letter(s) of intent.

For participating institutions, a block of 20 double rooms per institution shall be held (i.e., 20 total rooms for first round, and 60 total rooms for second and third round.) Each participating institution will need to confirm their arrival dates.

For the first round, designated team hotels should be held Tuesday and Wednesday night.

For the second and third round, designated team hotels should be held Thursday through Saturday night.

On rare occasions, an institution might need hotel rooms Monday night prior to the first round, or Sunday night after the third round.

Institutions' travel plans dictate their room needs, with a cut-off date of Monday at 5 p.m. local time for first round, and Thursday at 5 p.m. local for second round. We ask the participating institutions to let the hosts and hotel know as soon as possible to assist in accommodations.

For officials and site reps, first round umpires should have (4) rooms held the night before competition through the game date.

For second/third rounds (7) rooms should be held Friday with a check-out date of Sunday for the officials and sit representative hotel.

Team hotels are expected to be located within 30-45 minutes of travel time from the venue, with a preference for 30 minutes. Hotels beyond 45 minutes may be considered by the sport committee as part of an acceptable bid, but additional information and rationale is required with the bid. Hosts should also ensure that the locations of the hotels for all visiting teams are equitable to the greatest extent possible.

Hosts should indicate the quality of hotels in the bid submission on both the hotel letter of agreement and in the bid portal so committees have an additional understanding before awarding bids.

Hotels with internal doors and beds (i.e., no pullouts) are the only permissible lodging options.

Full-service properties are preferred while limited-service properties can be acceptable if they meet quality and amenity requirements as specified by the respective sport committee. The NCAA championship manager will reach out to each host, as necessary, to confirm hotel arrangements or if the hotel arrangements submitted are not satisfactory to the requirements.

- **Game and practice ball requirement.** The host must inform the NCAA of their playing surface during the bid process. Based off this information, the NCAA will select the type of ball that will be used during game competition based off their facility surface. The NCAA will send a dozen game balls per game at each site. Hosts must confirm this information via the bid portal and confirm it can meet minimum practice ball requirements based off the ball selected. Hosts do not have the ability to choose a ball that is not the required ball for their surface. All questions should be directed to Caleb Kolby at CKolby@ncaa.org.
- **Video review.** Hosts must indicate their desire to use video review during the preliminary rounds by the bid deadline by completing the questionnaire within the bid portal. Video review is highly encouraged during preliminary rounds. Video review will be required to host during the 2027 championship.
- **Game time adjustments.** All game time adjustments must be requested by the bid deadline to be considered. The Division III Field Hockey committee reserves the right to approve any game time alterations based off rationale provided by the host. Weather related changes may occur after the bracket is announced.
- **Liability Insurance.** Host institutions must maintain and provide proof of at least \$1 million of general liability insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol, or food-borne

illness. The certificate must be submitted to NCAA prior to competition. State institutions subject to state governing tort laws are permitted to provide proof of limited liability under state laws instead of general liability coverage. (This is the minimum requirement per NCAA bylaws).

If applicable, off-campus venues must also maintain and provide a minimum of \$1 million in general liability insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol, or food-borne illness. The NCAA must be named as an additional insured.

All insurance must be provided by an insurance company with an A.M. Best Rating of A-, VII or higher.

Host institutions must provide the national office with the appropriate certificates of insurance or documentation of self-insurance. This information must be provided via the Certificate of Insurance link in the bid portal. As this is a new feature in the portal, all prospective hosts must upload their documentation once. Depending on the coverage, users must subsequently verify their documentation is still valid, or upload a new certificate once the previous version has expired.

- **Television and Digital Rights.** The NCAA maintains exclusive rights to broadcast all rounds of NCAA championship competition. All host institutions of this championship event are required to produce a live internet video stream for distribution to NCAA.com.
- **Production Stipend.** A production stipend of \$1,000 per game will be provided to assist each host that meets the minimum streaming requirements, detailed within the manual and bid checklist. Broadcast production costs (staff, equipment, etc.) will not be submitted through the host budget system. The stipend will be provided to the hosts that meet all the requirements, post championship when finalizing the championship financials.

Additional Host Information/Resources

Host Operations Manual. [The 2026-27 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship Host Operations Manual](#) (linked) will assist your institution in all stages of the bidding and hosting process.

Potential Host Call. The 2026 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship will host a potential host and site representative call on Wednesday, October 28 at 11 a.m. eastern. It is highly recommended for all potential hosts of preliminary rounds attend the call. Information will be shared about the call as bids are submitted. To access the call, please reach out to ckolby@ncaa.org.

Drug Testing. Drug testing may occur at any round of the championship and the assistance of the host institution will be a vital part of the testing. You will be notified in advance if the round you are hosting has been selected for drug testing. Please review the [drug testing site coordinator manual](#) and note that Drug Free Sport AXIS will provide materials to assist in the program.

Americans with Disabilities Act. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that public establishments offer equal access and services to people who are physically and mentally challenged. The host institution/conference is required to confirm that each facility in which an NCAA championship or ancillary event occurs is in compliance with the Act by the various facilities hosting NCAA championship events. The host institution/conference is responsible for determining if the competition site will be in compliance as of the dates of the championship. If the host institution/conference becomes aware that a competition site hosting an NCAA championship event will not be in compliance, it shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to discuss the issue.

Hosting Environment. The host institution/conference plays a central role in delivering and maintaining an environment that is safe, healthy and respects the dignity of all persons.

NCAA Bylaw 31. Please review Bylaw 31 of the NCAA Division III Manual as it contains policies regarding the administration of an NCAA event.

Contact Information. If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Caleb Kolby) at 317-917-6180 or CKolby@ncaa.org